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NEEDLESS TOLL OF DEATH IN THE UNITED STATES

Of all things in the United States, that most enlightened nation, human life is cheapest. In his annual report for 1906 Dr. C. J. Whalen, Commissioner of Health for Chicago, made this statement as a fact too familiar to be controverted.

There are in the United States today approximately eighty millions of people of whom a million or more will die each year. Of the total number of deaths 25 per cent are unnecessary and could be prevented.

In a recent lecture before the New York Academy of Medicine Dr. C. A. L. Reed of Cincinnati expressed the same idea in another form when he declared that preventable diseases in the United States kill one person every two minutes of the year. At this rate the total would foot up 262,800 lives deliberately thrown away every twelve months. Let him who thinks this startling fact of no concern to himself remember that death is singularly indiscriminate.

In Europe, where human beings are regarded as too valuable to be wasted, some remarkable reductions have been made in the death rate. England and Wales had, in 1906, a death rate of 14.4 per thousand, which was a decrease of 22.7 per cent from that of the preceding decade. The Netherlands, with a rate of 15.6, showed a decrease of 11 per cent; Denmark, 15.8, a decrease of 9.7 per cent; Holland, 17.2, a decrease of 8.5 per cent. Even Sweden, where self-preservation had already become a religion, had been able to secure a decrease of 5.8 per cent, bringing her down to the remarkably low figure of 15.1 per thousand.

But the most astonishing thing is that, while the death rate in Europe continues to decline, it has turned about and is on the increase in the United States. In twenty-five out of thirty-six larger cities the death rate was higher in 1906 than in 1905, and in nine of them it was higher than it had been in five years. For the five years from 1901 to 1906 the average death rate from typhoid in Norway was 5.7 per 100,000; in Switzerland, 6.5; in Germany, 7.6; in Japan, 11.4; in the United Kingdom, 12.1; for the registration area of the United States, 32.2, or six times the rate in Norway, four and a half times the rate in Germany, and nearly three times the rate in England.

By the typhoid fever test human life is held cheaper in Pittsburgh than anywhere else, for the death rate from that preventable disease averaged 129.6 per 100,000 population for the five years ending with 1906, the highest in the civilized world. Pueblo, Colo., stood second in this catalogue of shame, with a rate of 113.6; Allegheny, third, 110.1; Jacksonville, Fla., 76.3; Columbus, O., 72.3; Louisville, Ky., 67.4. And typhoid is but one of the preventable diseases. Disease works by stealth in the dark chamber, out of sight of all but a few. But violence strikes down his victims with all the bloody ferocity of an Indian war.

According to the mortality statistics of the United States Census Bureau for 1906 deaths from all forms of violence in the registration area in 1906 aggregated 7,552. This is at the rate of 129.6 per 100,000, as compared with a rate of 50.7 in the German Empire in the same year. Nor is this all. The rate exceeds that of 1905, which was 117.9, and greatly exceeds that of any preceding year. The rate rose steadily from 6.1 per cent of all deaths in 1902 to 7.5 per cent in 1906. Violence now ranks fifth among the principal causes of death and the rate is still increasing.

The railroads led the slaughter in 1906 as they do today, with a toll of 7,090 killed, as compared with 4,487 in 1902, an increase from 14.1 per 100,000 to 17.4. Other principal causes of death by violence, with total number of deaths and the rate per 100,000 inhabitants are set forth in the following table, murders, suicides and executions being omitted.

Cause	Rate	No. of Deaths
Railroads	17.9	7,090
Drowning	10.7	4,395
Burns and scalds	8.7	3,585
Fractures and dislocations	7.6	3,114
Accidental poisoning	4.2	1,734
Vehicles and horses	3.7	1,524
Mines and quarries	3.7	1,523
Street cars	3.6	1,488
Asphyxiation	3.1	1,276
Accidental gunshot	2.6	1,074
Stroke	1.9	763
Substitution	1.8	719
Machinery	1.4	565
Freezing	0.5	203
Automobiles	0.4	183
Lightning	0.4	169
Other accidental causes	21.9	8,961
		38,368

One of the curious things about the fearful story of death by violence is that human life is cheapest in the southern cities. Measured by the deaths by violence, human life is cheapest in Butler, Pa., where the annual rate is 37.94 per 100,000 population. Pittston, in the same State, stands second, with a rate of 35.86. Iron Mountain, Mich., is third in rank, with a rate of 29.07; then come McKeesport, Pa., 28.1; Pueblo, Colo., 27.89; Buttsville, Pa., 27.8. Pueblo, Colo., is seventh in the list, with a rate of 26.93. Altogether there are more than a score of small cities, half of them in Pennsylvania, the rest in New Jersey, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Maryland, in which the death rate by violence exceeds the highest rate in any large city.

The total number of deaths by violence in 1906 and the rate per 100,000 inhabitants from that cause in seventeen of the larger cities are set forth in the following table:

City	Rate	Total Deaths
Pittsburgh	150.9	716
New Orleans	135.3	425
Kansas City	129.7	271
Buffalo	123.5	472
Boston	123.5	472
Cincinnati	118.2	388
San Francisco	116.8	429
Greater New York	105.1	311
Washington	101.1	143
Philadelphia	97.2	331
St. Louis	97.0	1,988
Chicago	95.5	529
Baltimore	93.0	331
Detroit	89.8	252
Milwaukee	89.8	191
St. Paul	89.8	122
		13,550

In Chicago violence caused 7.6 per cent of all deaths. This was an increase over the preceding decade. The railroad stands first with a total of 209 deaths for the city. Next come falls, which caused 283 deaths. Third in rank of causes are the street cars, with 167 deaths to their credit. Vehicles and horses, another peril of the street, the seventh in order of importance, caused 95 deaths.

But when it comes to the perils of the street, Chicago must give way to New York. In 1908 the street and elevated railroads and the subway of the metropolis alone killed 114 persons and wounded 35,000. As all the roads combined carried 1,260,000 during the year, this was a death or an injury for every 26,815 passengers. Automobiles killed 42 and injured 109.

ent in the United States. This may account for his lack of respect to our national bird—Popular Mechanics.

USEFUL TREES OF FLORIDA.

Great Variety Growing in the State—Durable Woods.

Florida has perhaps more useful trees growing within her borders than any other State in the Union, a great variety. But there is a general desire to introduce more, as the soil is fertile, the tallow tree and the eucalyptus.

An addition to the discussion of the latter, a tree which is very valuable because it has the unusual quality of growing with great rapidity, yet furnishing a hard and durable wood, is furnished by a letter to the editor of the Florida Fruit and Produce News by E. E. Thompson of Avon Park. Mr. Thompson says in part: "Eucalyptus trees were first planted here about 1894 and were injured by the great freeze, but sprouted and grew like orange trees. A few eucalyptus trees planted later have made such wonderful growth as to cause people to look up, take notice and rubberneck to see the lofty tops. The growth in ten years is six feet around the body."

"The seasoned wood is hard as hickory and posts show no decay in the ground. The limbs, twigs, leaves and seed cases make the very best fuel. Our people are convinced of the great value of eucalyptus and are planting them up and down the avenues and in the cemetery and will soon plant them in forest form."

In California some species of eucalyptus show greatest development in low places where rain water stands and in swamps, river bottoms, etc., though they will endure drought, according to a bulletin of the University of California. The durability of the wood, according to other authorities, is due to an oil which it is impregnated and which is extracted for commercial purposes.—Florida Times Union.

DECLINE IN BIRTH RATE.

Cause of Fall in This Country in Last Century.

Contrary to the recent optimistic statistics of Commissioner Darlington regarding New York City, the chief clerk of the census bureau, W. S. Rosdler, reports an extraordinary decline in the birth rate during the last century.

At the census nearest to 1900 the ratio of children to each woman sixteen years of age or over was 1.54, instead of two in 1790. In Great Britain the ratio was one, in France 1.3, in the German empire 1.1, and in Italy 1.1.

"Since the United States, although aided by large numbers of immigrants from all parts of the world, is now maintaining a ratio of children to females sixteen years of age and over practically the same as that shown by those of the leading nations of Europe," he says.

"It is clear that from now on, conditions in the republic are tending to become more like those in other civilized countries."

"The proportion shown for five of the New England States and for New York is the same, or nearly the same as the lowest European ratio, that of France. This is due to various causes, such as the tendency of population to ward the city from the country, the gradual adoption of arrangements as homes, the more exhaustive struggle for existence in large cities, etc."

"One-half of the white population of the country is composed either of foreign born persons or the native-born children of foreign parents. This loss of citizens is found almost entirely in the New England States and in the Middle West, the South having kept its individuality of race. In the Middle and New England States the foreign population formed in 1900 more than half of the whole white population, or 518 in every 1,000. In the Southern States foreign born citizens, or children born here of foreign parents, were only 79 in every 1,000."

In the early days, says the Post-Graduate, the country was occupied almost entirely by the English (83.5 per cent), who, with the Irish and Scotch, made more than 90 per cent, the German having less than 6 per cent and the French only 2 per cent. There is little difference in the proportion of the sexes. In 1790 the male population was 50.9 per cent and the female 49.1 per cent. The figures in 1900 were 50.2 per cent male and 49.8 per cent female.

"Hub" Welcomes Immigrants. A very simple way of getting around the rule in vogue at Ellis Island requiring that aliens who are otherwise desirable shall show that they possess \$25, at least, has been disclosed by the increased number of immigrants arriving at Boston, the New York Mail says. A difference of opinion between Commissioner Billings of Boston and Commissioner Williams at this port is responsible for the change.

Reports received here today not only show that immigrants have learned that they can enter the country at Boston when there is a chance they would be barred at Ellis Island, but that many who have been deported by the Ellis Island authorities have returned and been admitted at Boston. Commissioner Billings, having had of the question of the eligibility of aliens put up to him, decided that if aliens were otherwise acceptable, the fact that they could not produce \$25 would not bar them from entering the country.

Immigration officials are wondering how the difference of requirements and opinions of the immigration commissions at New York and Boston will work out. A situation has been created that will probably call for action and a decision by the higher officials in Washington, looking toward more uniformity in the requirements for admission to the country.

Ham and Eggs. Ham and eggs for breakfast. It's an ancient dish, I know. It was served upon the table in the days of Long Ago. But I like it, yes, I like it, and there's nothing I enjoy more.

That is ever half so comforting on the morning of a rainy day. You may have had modern dishes, have seen modern and start to grow a little old-fashioned and eat a planty good old dish.

I want to have a dish that will give me strength and energy. And I want it to be a dish that I can eat in the middle of the day. You may have your soups and stews, but I want a dish that I can eat in the middle of the day. Just shake my head in silence and speak my mind.

Ham and eggs for breakfast. It has about the test of years. There's nothing that can equal it. There's nothing so delightful. The eye of man at breakfast or so tempts the appetites. And I start the morning happy and I always wear a smile. If I breakfasted in a ham and eggs, served up in country style.—Detroit Free Press.

When a man loses, he says he just "plays for amusement." But he isn't amused; he is mad.



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SAVED BY A PANTHER.

Governor Jennings of Indiana used to tell a story of his early electioneering days in which he said that a panther may be a good temperance lecturer.

Col. W. M. Cockran repeats the story in his "Pioneer History of Indiana." The incident happened when Governor Jennings was traveling over the lately settled hills of Dearborn County, electing members for Congress.

He met a man with whom he was well acquainted, to name Tom Oakes, by who was just getting over a protracted debauch. Jennings began asking Tom about his political views. The half-sober fellow looked at him and said:

"Then, don't you think a man just out of a panther den ought to be elected Governor in a different manner from this? I am just from the grave. I was awakened a little while ago by a panther putting leaves and grass over me. It kept this up until I was entirely covered. I lay still for a while and then raised up and found the panther gone. I knew I was in danger, so I took my gun and climbed into a tree to see what the panther intended to do."

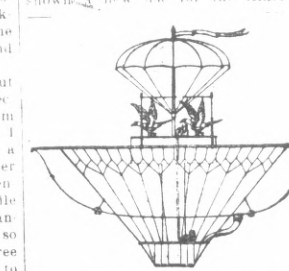
"In a short time I heard her coming, and she had her kittens with her. Every few steps she would jump as if catching something, and the little ones would go through the same maneuvers. She kept this up until she got near to the bed of leaves she had covered over me, and then made a spring on the pile. She looked just as I felt when I found that I was covered up for dead. She then started in to investigate the cause of my disappearance, and before she located me I shot her."

Jennings, after hearing this, said: "Well, Tom, I believe I should treat you as one from the dead, and that you should begin your life from this point. We were schoolboys together; I know you are a capable civil engineer and well-educated, and if you will cease

UNIQUE FLYING MACHINE.

Inventor Would Use Team of Wild Eagles to Run Airship.

In these days of successful flying machines it is interesting to note some of the curious methods of aerial navigation heretofore proposed. In United States patent granted May 17, 1887, to C. R. E. Wolff and now expired, was shown a new use for the American



PROPELLED BY EAGLE POWER.

Instead of being allowed to rise in lofty independence as our patriotic emblem, this utilitarian inventor has put him to work. A team of live eagles, each hitched up in special harness, was connected to a balloon as shown in the illustration, and formed a means of controlling and directing the flight of the balloon. This motive power was capable of indefinite radius of action and all the aeronaut could do was to keep his team of eagles headed in the direction he wanted to go, which was done by a turntable arrangement to which the eagles were secured by their harness. The inventor in this case was a Frenchman and his invention was patented in France before it was pat-

